

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMEMBASSY SUVA
U.S.S. HAROLD HOLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 170796

LIMDIS, U.S.S. HAROLD HOLT PLEASE PASS ASST. SEC. HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PGOV, EGEN, MARR, JA, US

SUBJECT:WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - JAPAN, JULY 6, 1978

TO: EA - MR. OAKLEY, ACTING

FROM: EA/J - NICHOLAS PLATT

1. TOGO-NEWSOM MEETING (CONFIDENTIAL)

AMBASSADOR TOGO IS FLYING TO BONN JUST BEFORE THE SUMMIT
TO BRIEF PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA ON US ATTITUDES TOWARD THE
BONN SUMMIT. IN PARTICULAR, HE WANTS TO BRIEF FUKUDA ON
THE POSSIBLE POLITICAL TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED. TO PREPARE
HIMSELF FOR THIS, TOGO WILL MEET WITH UNDERSECRETARY
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NEWSOM AT NOON ON FRIDAY. THE EMBASSY HAS INDICATED THAT HE
IS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN OUR MOST RECENT ASSESSMENT OF
THE SINO-SRV CONFLICT AND OUR VIEWS ON US-CHINA POLICY. IN
RETURN, TOGO EXPECTS TO HAVE HEARD FROM TOKYO ON THE RE-
SULTS OF FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA'S CONVERSATIONS WITH SRV
VICE FOREIGN MINISTER PHAN HIEN AND WILL BRIEF MR. NEWSOM
ACCORDINGLY. WE WILL PREPARE A REPORTING TELEGRAM FOLLOWING

THE MEETING.

2. READER'S DIGEST STORY ON "JAPANESE REARMAMENT" (LOU)

SMITH HEMPSTONE HAS ASKED BOTH DEFENSE AND STATE TO RESPOND TO SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT JAPANESE DEFENSE BUDGETS AND SDF MISSIONS FOR A READER'S DIGEST STORY HE IS DOING ENTITLED "JAPANESE REARMAMENT: AN AMERICAN VIEW." WE HAVE STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT HE DROP THE WORK "REARMAMENT" IN FAVOR OF "DEFENSE" OR "SECURITY". BOTH WE AND DOD ARE PROVIDING STANDARD WRITTEN ANSWERS TO HIS QUESTIONS, AND EA/J HAS OFFERED TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT THE STORY. WE WILL PROVIDE EMBASSY TOKYO WITH A COPY OF OUR RESPONSE.

3. CONSULATE GENERAL IN KANSAS CITY APPROVED (UNCLASSIFIED)

THE DEPARTMENT HAS FORMALLY NOTIFIED THE JAPANESE EMBASSY OF OUR APPROVAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW CONSULATE GENERAL AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI. THE CONSULAR DISTRICT FOR THE NEW POST WILL ENCOMPASS IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA, NORTH DAKOTA AND SOUTH DAKOTA. THE NEW CONSULATE GENERAL WILL BRING TO TWELVE THE NUMBER OF JAPANESE CONSULATES GENERAL IN THE US. THEY ALSO HAVE ONECONSULATE.

4. JAPANESE PER CAPITA INCOME EQUALS OURS (UNCLASSIFIED)

--- UNCLASSIFIED)

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SABURO OKITA, CHAIRMAN OF THE JAPAN ECONOMIC RESEARCH COUNCIL AND ONE OF JAPAN'S MOST RESPECTED INTERNATIONAL ECONOMISTS, TOLD ME AT DINNER LAST NIGHT THAT PER CAPITA INCOME IN JAPAN HAD REACHED ABOUT \$9,700 OR ROUGHLY THE SAME AS THAT IN THE US. WHEN OTHER JAPANESE AT THE DINNER GREETED HIS OBSERVATION WITH/SHOCK/AND ASTONISHMENT, HE NOTED THAT THE FIGURE WAS THE RESULT OF YEN APPRECIATION AND THAT A CONSIDERABLE GAP REMAINED IF PER CAPITA INCOME WERE MEASURED IN PRE-APPRECIATION DOLLARS. JAPAN'S TWO-TIERED ECONOMY, IN WHICH THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR (RATHER THAN THE CONSUMER) RECEIVED THE LIONS' SHARE OF INCOME FURTHER DISTORTED THE PICTURE. NEVERTHELESS, THE FIGURES REMAINED A STRIKING EXAMPLE OF HOW FAR JAPAN HAD COME ECONOMICALLY IN RECENT YEARS, HE CONCLUDED. VANCE

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